

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

Anne Rice's
THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED





LET THEM
GO, AKASHA,
PLEASE!



MY LOVE, THIS IS DIVINE WAR.
YOU KILL NOW IN MY NAME AND FOR
MY CAUSE AND I GIVE YOU THE GREATEST
FREEDOM EVER GIVEN MAN—

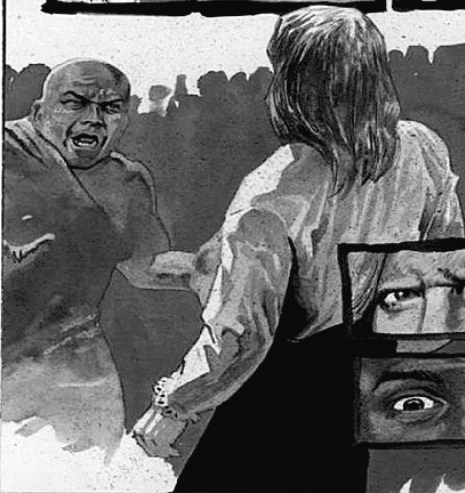
—I TELL YOU THAT TO
SLAY YOUR MORTAL BROTHER
IS RIGHT.

NOW LIKE
THE POWER I'VE
GIVEN YOU.



MY HEAD WAS SPINNING.
AND I THIS POWER
TO MAKE MEN DROP IN
THEIR TRACKS ?

THERE IS NO LIFE
FOR THEM NOW, SAVE
IN THE LESSON DO I AT
COMMAND.





I FELT IT TOUCHING HIM. I FELT IT POURING OUT OF ME.

...I FELT IT AS SURELY AS IF I HAD PENETRATED HIS SKULL WITH MY FINGERS AND WAS SQUEEZING HIS BRAIN.

YES, KILL THEM. YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO IT.

TO KILL AS IF IT WERE NOTHING TO DESTROY WITHOUT SCRUPLE OR REGRET!

OH, WAS SHE EVER RIGHT, HOW I HAD WANTED TO DO IT! NOW I HAD DREAMED OF IT IN MY EARLIEST MORTAL YEARS!

I PURSUED THEM WITH EXHILARATING RAGE, CLAMPING THOSE INVISIBLE FINGERS ON THEIR ARTERIES UNTIL THE BLOOD GUSHED THROUGH THE BURSTING FLESH.

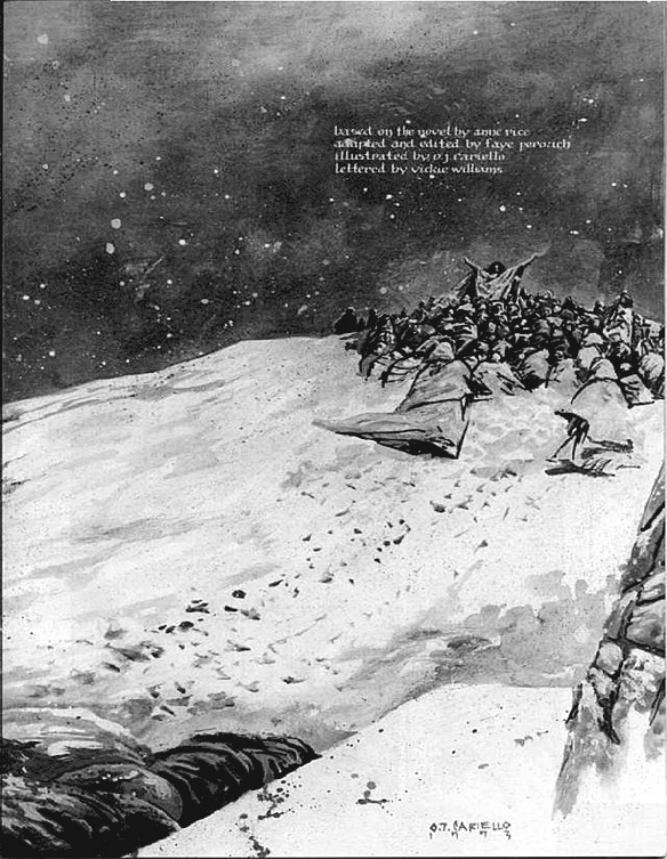
I HAD NO MORE REMORSE, NO MORE CONSCIENCE. IT WAS A MINDLESS GAME TO CHASE THEM.

AND THEN I HEARD HER, AT THE FRONT GATES. SHE WAS CALLING ME.

the
queen
of
heaven



based on the novel by anne rice
adapted and edited by faye parovich
illustrated by o.j. carriello
lettered by vidue williams



O.J. CARIELLO



WELL, COME,
MY PRINCE!

I SMELLED DEATH AS I HAD
NEVER SMELLED IT. BUT MY
HANDS! MY HANDS WERE SO
WHITE AND CLEAN!



DEAR GOD, I DIDN'T DO IT!
NOT ME. I DIDN'T. MY HANDS
ARE CLEAN!



OH, BUT I HAD! MORE
HAD DIED HERE IN
THESE FEW GHOSTLY
MOMENTS THAN ALL
THOSE I'D EVER SENT
TO THEIR UNTIMELY
GRAVES. AND IT HAD
BEEN DONE WITH THE
EDGE OF THAT KNIFE
AND BREATH

OH, THIS CAN NEVER
BE ATONED FOR!
THIS CAN NEVER BE
JUSTIFIED!



AKAABA!

DO NOT BE
AFRAID. THE BLOODY
REIGN OF YOUR GOD
IS OVER, AND NOW
YOU MAY RETURN TO
THE TRUTH.

YOU MUST TELL
THOSE WHO KNEW OF
THE BLOOD GOD THAT
HE IS DEAD. THE
QUEEN OF HEAVEN
HAS DESTROYED HIM.
THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN
WILL BRING A NEW
REIGN OF PEACE ON
EARTH.

GO ON.
LEAVE THIS TEMPLE
FOREVER. LEAVE THE
DEAD TO THE SNOW
AND THE WINDS.

I WILL COME
AGAIN TO YOU. I WILL
SHOW YOU THE WAY.

FOR NOW,
BELIEVE IN ME
AND WHAT YOU
HAVE SEEN HERE
AND TELL OTHERS
THAT THEY TOO
MAY BELIEVE.

GO NOW.
WAIT FOR SIGNS
FROM ME.



TURN AND
LOOK AT ME,
LESTAY.





BUT HOW
DO YOU DARE
TO DO THESE
THINGS! TO
SEND THESE
IGNORANT SOULS
ABROAD WITH
MAD LIES.



SHE STARED AT ME IN
SILENCE, AND I THOUGHT,
WELL, THE MOMENT IS
NOW. I WILL DIE THE WAY
I SAW AZIM DIE.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT ELLE OR LOUIS.
I CAN'T SAVE ANYMORE, AND I CAN'T
FIGHT BECAUSE IT'S USELESS.



YOU
REALLY AREN'T
AFRAID OF ANYTHING,
ARE YOU?

I'M
AFRAID OF
YOU.

OH, NO, I DO
NOT THINK SO.



I AM, AND I'LL
TELL YOU WHAT ABOUT I AM-
VERMIN ON THE FACE OF THE
EARTH. NOTHING MORE THAN
THAT. A LORTHWICK KILLER
OF HUMAN BEINGS.

BUT I KNOW THAT'S
WHAT I AM! I DO NOT PRETEND
TO BE WHAT I AM NOT! YOU
HAVE TOLD THESE IGNORANT
PEOPLE THAT YOU ARE THE QUEEN
OF HEAVEN!



DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND?
I SHALL MAKE THE
MYTHS OVER!
I AM THE QUEEN
OF HEAVEN!

HEAVEN SHALL
REIGN ON EARTH FINALLY.
I AM ANYTHING THAT I
SAID I AM!

OH LORD,
GOD...

DO NOT
SPEAK THOSE
WALLOW WORDS. YOU
STAND IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE
ONLY GODDESS
YOU WILL EVER
KNOW.

YOU ARE THE
ONLY GOD THESE
PEOPLE WILL EVER
KNOW!

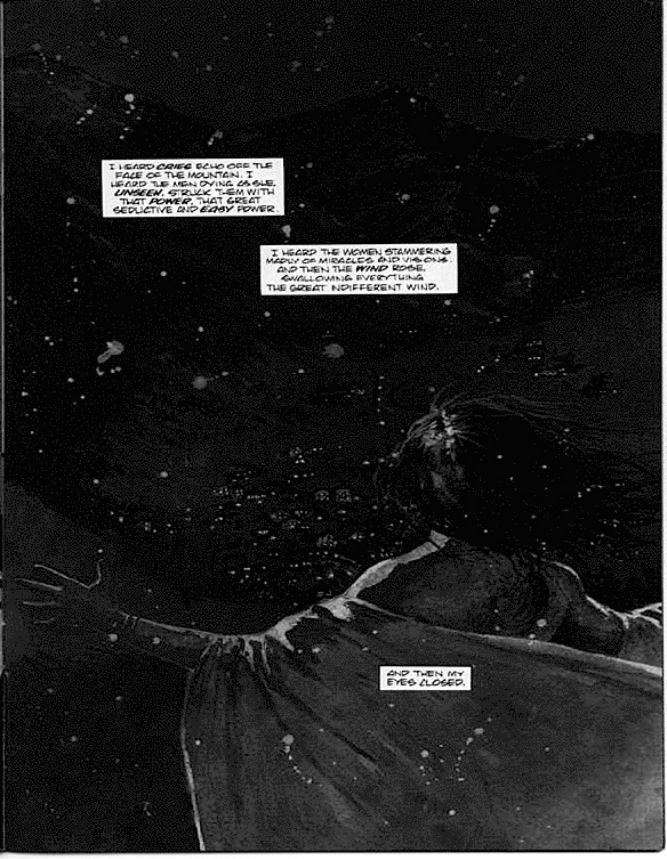
DON'T YOU
REALIZE WHAT'S
TAKEN PLACE?

WE ARE
WHAT THEY
DREAM OF,
LESTAY. WE
CANNOT
DISAPPOINT
THEM.

I
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING
I'M GOING
NAD.

SUCH
ARROGANCE. SUCH
INCREDIBLE
ARROGANCE...

...AND
YET I LOVE
YOU.



I HEARD CRIES ECHO OFF THE
FACE OF THE MOUNTAIN. I
HEARD THE MEN DYING AS SILE,
UNSEEN, STRUCK THEM WITH
THAT POWER, THAT GREAT
SEDUCTIVE AND EASY POWER.

I HEARD THE WOMEN STAMMERING
MADRY OF MIRACLES AND VISIONS.
AND THEN THE WIND ROSE,
SWALLOWING EVERYTHING
THE GREAT INDIFFERENT WIND.

AND THEN MY
EYES CLOSED.



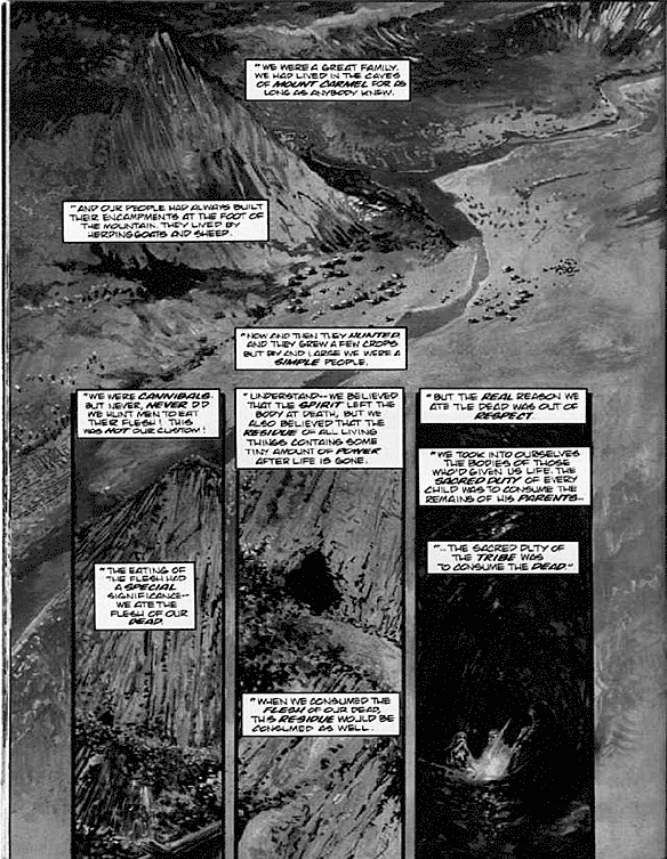
SONOMA COMPOUND, CALIFORNIA.
MARGRET BEGINS THE STORY OF
THE TIVING...

IN THE BEGINNING,
WE WERE WITCHES, MY SISTER
AND I. NOW, WHEN I SAY THAT WE
WERE WITCHES, I MEAN THAT WE
HAD THE POWER TO COMMUNICATE
WITH THE SPIRITS.



AND THOSE WITH SUCH
POWERS AS WE HAD WERE GREATLY
REVERED AMONGST OUR PEOPLE
AND SOUGHT AFTER FOR ADVICE
AND MIRACLES AND GLIMPSES
INTO THE FUTURE, AND OCCASIONALLY
FOR PUTTING THE SPIRITS OF THE
DEAD TO REST.

WHAT I AM
SAYING IS THAT WE
WERE PERCEIVED AS GOOD,
AND WE HAD OUR PLACE
IN THE SCHEME OF
THINGS.



"WE WERE A GREAT FAMILY.
WE HAD LIVED IN THE CAVES
OF MOUNT CARMEL FOR AS
LONG AS ANYBODY KNEW.

"AND OUR PEOPLE HAD ALWAYS BUILT
THEIR ENCAMPMENTS AT THE FOOT OF
THE MOUNTAIN. THEY LIVED BY
HERDING GOATS AND SHEEP.

"NOW AND THEN THEY HUNTED
AND THEY GREW A FEW CROPS,
BUT BY AND LARGE WE WERE A
SIMPLE PEOPLE.

"WE WERE CANNIBALS
BUT NEVER, NEVER DID
WE HUNT MEN TO EAT
THEIR FLESH! THIS
WAS NOT OUR CUSTOM!

"UNDERSTAND--WE BELIEVED
THAT THE SPIRIT LEFT THE
BODY AT DEATH, BUT WE
ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE
RESIDUE OF ALL LIVING
THINGS CONTAINS SOME
TINY AMOUNT OF POWER
AFTER LIFE IS GONE.

"BUT THE REAL REASON WE
ATE THE DEAD WAS OUT OF
RESPECT.

"WE TOOK INTO OURSELVES
THE BODIES OF THOSE
WHO'D GIVEN US LIFE. THE
SACRED DUTY OF EVERY
CHILD WAS TO CONSUME THE
REMAINS OF HIS PARENTS--

"THE EATING OF
THE FLESH HAD
A SPECIAL
SIGNIFICANCE--
WE ATE THE
FLESH OF OUR
DEAD.

"WHEN WE CONSUMED THE
FLESH OF OUR DEAD,
THIS RESIDUE WOULD BE
CONSUMED AS WELL.

"...THE SACRED DUTY OF
THE TRIBE WAS
TO CONSUME THE DEAD."



NOW, ABOUT THE TIME THAT MY SISTER AND I REACHED OUR SIXTEENTH YEAR, A GREAT CHANGE OCCURRED IN THE NILE VALLEY.

OR SO WE WERE TOLD.

"THE AGING QUEEN OF THAT REALM DIED WITHOUT A DAUGHTER TO CARRY ON THE ROYAL BLOOD.

"BUT KING ENKIL WAS YOUNG AND STRONG AND DETERMINED TO RULE HIS LAND.

"HE SETTLED UPON A NEW BRIDE, NOT FROM HIS OWN PEOPLE, BUT FROM THOSE OF THE CITY OF URUK IN THE TIGRIS AND EUFRATES VALLEY.

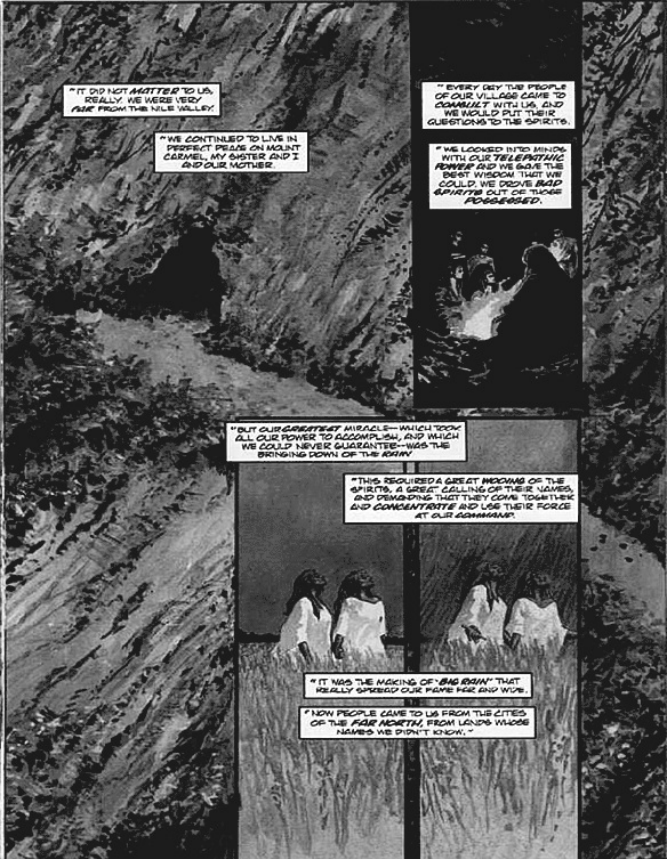
"THIS WAS **ANANNA**, A BEAUTY OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, AND A WORSHIPER OF THE GREAT GODDESS, **INANNA**...

"...ONE WHO COULD BRING INTO ENKIL'S KINGDOM THE WISDOM OF HER LAND."

NOW THE PEOPLE OF THE NILE WERE **FARMERS** GLADLY, BUT THEY TENDED TO NEGLECT THIS TO WANT AND TO MAKE WAR FOR **HUMAN FLESH**.

AND THIS **MORRIFIED ANANNA**, WHO SET ABOUT AT ONCE TO TURN THEM AWAY FROM THIS BARBARIC HABIT AS POSSIBLY **ANYONE** OF HIGHER CIVILIZATION MIGHT DO.

OUR PEOPLE HEARD **GREAT GOSSIP** ABOUT THE BAN UPON ALL **CANNIBALISM** IN THE NILE VALLEY.



"IT DID NOT MATTER TO US,
REALLY, WE WERE VERY
PURE FROM THE NILE VALLEY.

"WE CONTINUED TO LIVE IN
PERFECT PEACE ON MOUNT
CARVEL, MY SISTER AND I
AND OUR MOTHER.

"EVERY DAY THE PEOPLE
OF OUR VILLAGE CAME TO
CONSULT WITH US, AND
WE WOULD PUT THEIR
QUESTIONS TO THE SPIRITS.

"WE LOOKED INTO MINDS
WITH OUR TELEPATHIC
POWER, AND WE GAVE THE
BEST WISDOM THAT WE
COULD. WE DROVE BAD
SPIRITS OUT OF THOSE
POSSESSED.

"BUT OUR GREATEST MIRACLE—WHICH TOOK
ALL OUR POWER TO ACCOMPLISH, AND WHICH
WE COULD NEVER GUARANTEE—WAS THE
BRINGING DOWN OF THE ARMY.

"THIS REQUIRED A GREAT MOOVING OF THE
SPIRITS, A GREAT CALLING OF THEIR NAMES,
AND DEMANDING THAT THEY COME TOGETHER
AND CONCENTRATE AND USE THEIR FORCE
AT OUR COMMAND.

"IT WAS THE MAKING OF 'BIG BRAIN' THAT
REALLY SPEEDED OUR PACE FOR AND WUE.

"NOW PEOPLE CAME TO US FROM THE CITIES
OF THE FAR NORTH, FROM LANDS WHOSE
NAMES WE DIDN'T KNOW."



"ONE DAY A LETTER
CAME INTO OUR HANDS.
A MESSENGER BROUGHT
IT FROM THE KING
AND QUEEN OF KEMET,
WHICH WAS THE LAND
OF EGYPT."



MY SOVEREIGNS,
AKHSHAM AND ENKHIL, HAVE
HEARD OF YOUR GREAT
POWER AND WOULD BE HONORED
IF YOU WOULD VISIT AT
THEIR COURT.

THEY HAVE
SENT A GREAT ESCORT
TO ACCOMPANY YOU TO
KEMET, AND THEY
WILL SEND YOU HOME WITH
GREAT GIFTS.



WHAT IS IT,
MOTHER? WHAT DO
YOU SEE?



THE QUEEN AND KING OF KEMET
ARE EVIL. GREAT SLUDDERS OF BLOOD.
THEY ARE VERY DISREGARDING
OF OTHERS' BELIEFS.



A TERRIBLE
EVIL WILL COME TO
YOU FROM THIS MAN
AND WOMAN!

"FINALLY WE ASKED THE SPIRITS. THEY SAID THAT SOME TERRIBLE DANGER WOULD COME TO US IF WE WERE TO GO TO THE KING AND QUEEN."

BECAUSE THE KING AND QUEEN WILL ASK YOU QUESTIONS

AND IF YOU ANSWER TRUTHFULLY, WERE YOU WILL

THE KING AND QUEEN WILL BE ANGRY WITH YOU, AND YOU WILL BE DESTROYED.

WHY?

WE CANNOT LEAVE THE PLACE WHERE WE WERE BORN. NO WITCH OF OUR FAMILY HAS EVER LEFT HERE.

PLEASE TELL THIS TO THE KING AND QUEEN.

"SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, AN EVIL SPIRIT CAME TO US, ONE WHICH WE CALLED AMEL."

"ENORMOUS, POWERFUL, AND FULL OF RANCOR, THIS THING DANCED ABOUT THE CLEARING BEFORE OUR CAVE, TELLING US THAT EVIL WAS COMING OUR WAY."

"MOTHER GREN SICK IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THEN NEARLY, AND THEN UNABLE TO SPEAK."

"FOR MONTHS SHE LINGERED
PARALYZED, HALF ASLEEP.

"THE SPIRITS WERE IN A TERRIBLE
STATE OF AGITATION, AS THEY
LOVED HER. THEY MADE THE WIND
BLOW, THEY TORE THE LEAVES FROM
THE TREES.



"WE KNEW OUR MOTHER WAS DYING, AND THE SPIRITS KNEW IT.

"WHEN FINALLY IT HAPPENED, WE
CAME OUT OF THE CAVE TO TELL
THE VILLAGERS OUR MOTHER HAD
GONE TO HIGHER REALMS.

"AT ONCE THE VILLAGERS CAME TO
DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.



"AFTER TEN HOURS HAD PASSES,
AND HUNDREDS HAD COME TO
VISIT, WE PREPARED THE BODY
FOR THE FUNERAL FEAST.



"IN *PRIVACY*, WE GAVE OPEN
HER SKULL AND REMOVED
HER *BRAIN*, PLACING IT ON A
PLATE WITH HER EYES.

"THEN, WITH AN EQUALLY
CAREFUL INCISION, WE
REMOVED THE *HEART*
AND PLACED IT ON
ANOTHER PLATE."



"THEN THE ROOSTING BEGAN."

"ALL NIGHT IT TOOK PLACE.
THE SPIRITS WERE QUIETED
BECAUSE THE SPIRIT OF OUR
MOTHER WAS GONE. I DON'T
THINK THE BODY MATTERED
TO THEM ...

"... BUT IT CERTAINLY
MATTERED TO US."

"BECAUSE WE WERE WITCHES AND OUR
MOTHER WAS A WITCH, WE ALONE
WOULD RESEMBLE HER FLESH.
THE VILLAGERS WOULD KEEP WATCH
WITH US."

"AS THE NIGHT WORE ON,
MY SISTER AND I
DELIBERATED OVER THE
HEART AND THE BRAIN."

"TO MANY PEOPLES OF THAT TIME,
I HAD THE HEART THAT
MATTERED. TO THE EGYPTIANS,
THE HEART WAS THE SEAT OF
CONSCIENCE."

"BUT WE AS WITCHES BELIEVED
THAT THE BRAIN WAS THE
RESIDENCE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT."

"MEKARE WAS THE MORE POWERFUL WITCH,
THE ONE BORN FIRST. IT SEEMED RIGHT
THAT SHE SHOULD TAKE THE BRAIN ...

"... AND I, WHO HAD ALWAYS BEEN
QUIETER OF DISPOSITION,
SHOULD TAKE THE HEART."



"WE WERE **PLEASSED**
WITH THE DIVISION
AND WE **GLEED** FOR
A FEW HOURS, OUR
BODIES WEAK FROM
THE **FASTING** THAT
PREPARED US FOR
THE FEAST.

"SOMETIME BEFORE DAWN THE
SPIRITS **WAKED** US. THEY
SAID THAT **STRANGERS** WERE
GATHERED ON THE MOUNTAIN."

"...MANY STRANGERS WHO WERE MOST
IMPRESSED WITH OUR POWER AND
DANGEROUSLY CURIOUS ABOUT
THE FEAST."

THESE MEN
WANT SOMETHING
OF YOU AND
MYKARE.

THESE
MEN ARE
NOT FOR THE
GOOD.



STRANGERS
ALWAYS COME
HERE. THIS IS
NOTHING.

BE QUIET NOW,
AND LET US DO WHAT
WE HAVE TO DO.



YOU KNOW
WHAT WAS ABOUT TO
HAPPEN. YOU SAW IT IN
YOUR DREAMS.

YOU SAW THE
BODY OF OLD MOTHER,
PEACEFUL AS IN SLEEP.
YOU SAW THE HEART AND
THE BRAIN AND THE EYES
UPON THEIR PLATES.

YOU SAW US
MOVE ON EITHER
SIDE OF OUR MOTHER'S
BODY AND YOU HEARD
THE MUSICIANS BEGIN
TO PLAY.

AND THEN THE
EVIL CAME DOWN UPON US,
CAME SO SUDDENLY WITH
THE LOUD SHRELL, HAIR
CRIES OF THE EGYPTIAN
SOLDIERS--

"--THAT WE REALIZED
WE'VE KNOWN WHAT
WAS HAPPENING--"



"I HEARD MEKARE
SCREAMING AS I
HAD NEVER HEARD
A HUMAN SCREAM.

"MY SISTER AND I WERE
READY TO DIE. BUT THEY
DID NOT KILL US. IT WAS
NOT THEIR INTENTION
TO KILL US.

"AND AS THEY DRAGGED US AWAY,
WE SAW THE MEN AND WOMEN OF
OUR TRIBE LYING DEAD, AND WE
KNEW THEIR BODIES WOULD BE
LEFT THERE, IN LITTER
DYED BLOOD AND BLOOD.

"AND THEN I TOO
WAS SCREAMING.



"ALL THE WAY TO EGYPT,
THE SPIRITS FOLLOWED
OUR PROCESSION...

"...THEY REDEVILED THE
MEN WHO KEPT US BOUND.

"YET THE KING COUNSELED HIS
SOLDIERS NOT TO BE AFRAID
AND THE SOLDIERS OBEYED.

"AND EACH NIGHT THE KING HAD
US BROUGHT BEFORE HIM."



I HAVE
SPARED YOU
BECAUSE I
WOULD HAVE THE
BENEFIT OF YOUR
WISDOM.

I WOULD
LEARN FROM
YOU, AND MY
QUEEN WOULD
LEARN, AS
WELL.

YOU ARE
GREAT WITCHES.
I HAVE SPARED
YOUR LIFE ON THIS
ACCOUNT--

--THOUGH
YOU WERE FLESH
EATERS, AS WERE
YOUR PEOPLE.



I HAVE
SPARED YOU
BECAUSE I
WOULD HAVE THE
BENEFIT OF YOUR
WISDOM.

I WOULD
LEARN FROM
YOU, AND MY
QUEEN WOULD
LEARN, AS
WELL.



TELL ME
WHAT I CAN
GIVE YOU TO
EASE YOUR
SUFFERING
AND I WILL
DO IT. YOU
ARE UNDER MY
PROTECTION
NOW...

...I
AM YOUR
KING.



* WEeping, REFUSING TO
MEET HIS EYES,
SAYING NOTHING, WE
STOOD BEFORE HIM
UNTIL HE TIRED OF ALL
THIS, AND SENT US
BACK TO SLEEP.

"WE WEREN'T
AFRAID. WE WERE
TOO STRICKEN
WITH GRIEF TO
BE AFRAID. IT
WAS AS IF WE
WERE ALREADY
DEAD.

"WE'D SEEN OUR PEOPLE MASSACRED,
WE'D SEEN OUR MOTHER'S BODY
DESECRATED. WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT
COULD BE WORSE.

"WE WERE TOGETHER--
MAYBE SEPARATION
WOULD BE WORSE."



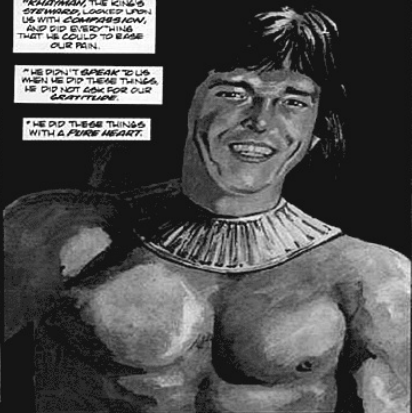


"BUT DURING THIS LONG JOURNEY TO EGYPT, WE HAD OUR SMALL CONSOLATION, WHICH WE WERE NOT LATER TO FORGET.

"KHADEMAN, THE KING'S STEWARD, LOOKED UPON US WITH COMPASSION, AND DID EVERYTHING THAT HE COULD TO EASE OUR PAIN.

"HE DIDN'T SPEAK TO US WHEN WE DID THESE THINGS. HE DID NOT LOOK FOR OUR GRATITUDE.

"HE DID THESE THINGS WITH A PURE HEART.



"IT SEEMED HE TRAVELED TEN DAYS TO REACH THE LAND OF KHEFT. MAYBE IT WAS MORE. MAYBE IT WAS LESS.

"IMPRISONED, WE WAITED GRIMLY TO SEE WHAT WOULD BE OUR FATE.

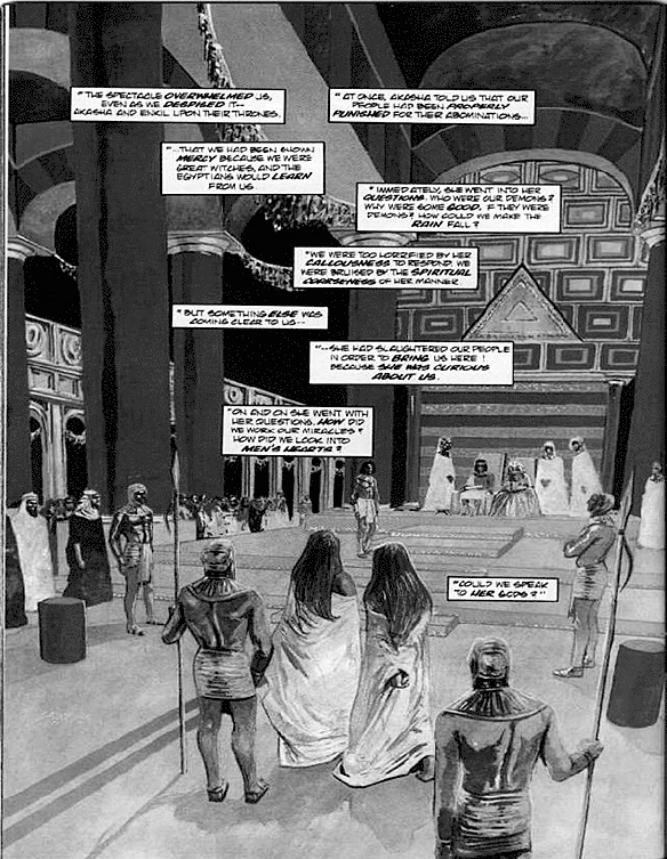
"SO BEFORE, KHADEMAN WAS OUR ONLY CONSOLATION IN THOSE FIRST HOURS.

"KHADEMAN SAW THAT WE HAD COMFORTS IN OUR IMPRISONMENT, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME HE SPoke TO US--

"--HE TOLD US THAT THE QUEEN WAS GENTLE AND GOOD, AND WE MUST NOT BE AFRAID.

"THEN EVENING CAME AND THE QUEEN SENT FOR US.





"THE SPECTACLE OVERWHELMED US,
EVEN AS WE OBSERVED IT."
AKHENATON AND NEKHEMIS LAY ON THEIR THROAT.

"AT ONCE, AKHENATON TOLD US THAT OUR
PEOPLE HAD BEEN APPROPRIATELY
PUNISHED FOR THEIR ABOMINATIONS...

"...THAT WE HAD BEEN KNOWN
MAGIC BECAUSE WE WERE
GREAT KITCHES, AND THE
EGYPTIANS WOULD LEARN
FROM US.

"IMMEDIATELY, SHE WENT INTO HER
QUESTIONS WHO WERE OUR DEMONS?
WHY WERE SOME GOOD, IF THEY WERE
DEMONS? HOW COULD WE MAKE THE
RAIN FALL?

"WE WERE TOO WORRIED BY HER
CALLOUSNESS TO RESPOND. WE
WERE BRUISED BY THE SPIRITUAL
BARRENNESS OF HER MANNER.

"BUT SOMETHING ELSE WAS
COMING CLEAR TO US...

"...SHE HAD SLAUGHTERED OUR PEOPLE
IN ORDER TO BRING US HERE!
BECAUSE SHE WAS CURIOUS
ABOUT US.

"ON AND ON SHE WENT WITH
HER QUESTIONS. HOW DID
WE WORK OUR MIRACLES?
HOW DID WE LOOK INTO
MEN'S LEGS?

"COULD WE SPEAK
TO HER GODS?"

"IT BROUGHT UP THE DEEPEST RAGE FROM MEKARE. SHE, WHO HAD ALWAYS TAKEN THE LEAD IN ANYTHING, SPOKE OUT NOW."



STOP YOUR QUESTIONS. YOU SPEAK IN STUPIDITIES.



YOU HAVE NO GODS IN THIS KINGDOM, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO GODS.

THE ONLY INVISIBLE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD ARE SPIRITS, AND THEY PLAY WITH YOU THROUGH YOUR PRIESTS AND YOUR RELIGION! AS THEY PLAY WITH EVERYONE ELSE.

THE SPIRITS ARE REAL, BUT THEY ARE CHILD-LIKE AND CAPRICIOUS. AND THEY ARE DANGEROUS AS WELL.

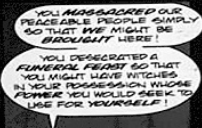


IT TAKES GREAT SKILL AND GREAT POWER TO USE THE SPIRITS--THIS WE HAVE AND YOU DO NOT.



YOU ARE FOOLS, AND WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO TAKE US PRISONER IS EVIL. IT IS DISHONEST--YOU LIVE IN THE LIE!

BUT WE WILL NOT LIE TO YOU.



YOU MASSACRED OUR PEACEABLE PEOPLE SIMPLY SO THAT WE MIGHT BE BROUGHT HERE!

YOU DECEASED A FUNERAL FEAST SO THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE WITCHES IN YOUR POSSESSION WHOSE POWER YOU WOULD SEEK TO USE FOR YOURSELF!





"MEKORE WAS ENRAGED. I BEGGED HER NOT TO GO ANY MORE, I REMINDED HER OF THE SPIRITS' WARNING. BUT SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN."



"BACK AND FORTH SHE WALKED, AND I FELT THE ANGER SHE FELT."



"DAMNABLE EVIL."

"I KNEW THAT AMEL WAS NEAR, I COULD HEAR HIM, SENSE HIM."



"AND I KNEW THAT MEKORE WAS BEING TEMPTED TO CALL UPON HIM, AND I FELT THAT SHE MUST NOT. WHAT WOULD HIS HELLY TORTURES MEAN TO THE EGYPTIANS?"

"BUT AMEL WAS GROWING RESTLESS."



"BE QUIET, DEMON. WAIT UNTIL I NEED YOU!"



"I DON'T REMEMBER WHEN WE FELL ASLEEP..."

"...ONLY THAT SOMETIME AFTER MIDNIGHT I WAS AWAKENED BY ACRYSTALIN."



TELL ME, IS THIS TRUE, WHAT YOU SAID OF THE SPIRITS?

THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INVISIBLE ENTITIES. THEY THEMSELVES TOLD US THERE WERE NO GODS OR GODDESSES.

NOW AND THEN THEY WOULD COME BOOMING THAT THEY WERE THIS OR THAT GOD. BUT WE KNEW THEIR PERSONALITIES. WE KNEW THEIR OLD NAMES.



BUT THE MASSACRE OF YOUR PEOPLE, THIS WAS A NOBLE DEED - IT WAS NOT A SELFISH THING, AS YOU SAID.



NO, IT WAS A SELFISH AND SIMPLE THING. I CAN'T SAY OTHERWISE.

YOU KNOW THAT WHAT I AM SAYING IS THE TRUTH.





"THE FOLLOWING MORNING THE QUEEN
SENT FOR US AGAIN. THIS TIME WE
WERE BROUGHT TO HER CHAMBER."

"ONCE AGAIN SHE PUT HER QUESTIONS.
STANDING TOGETHER, WE HAD TO LISTEN
TO THE SAME NONSENSE."

"AND ONCE AGAIN MEKARE TOLD THE
GURPH OF THE SPIRITS. IT WAS ALL A
GAME TO THE SPIRITS, NO MORE."

BUT THESE SPIRITS!
THEY ARE THE GODS. THEN, THAT
IS WHAT YOU ARE SAYING!

BUT THEY
ARE NOT GODS.
THAT IS WHAT
WE ARE TRYING
TO TELL
YOU.

AND YOU
DREAM TO
THINK I WANT
TO SEE YOU DO
IT! DO IT FOR
ME NOW!

"I KNEW THIS
WOMAN COULDN'T
GRASP WHAT I
WAS TELLING HER.
I PERCEIVED
THE MADNESS INSIDE
HER--"

"-- BETWEEN THE HANDMAIDEN OF THE
GODDESS ANKHARA WHO WANTED TO
BELIEVE HERSELF BLESSED--"

"--AND THE DARK BROODING SOUL WHO
BELIEVED FINALLY IN NOTHING."

EVERYTHING YOU
SAY IS LIES! YOU ARE EVIL
WOMEN!

YOU WILL BE
BURNT ALIVE TOMORROW--
TOGETHER, SO THAT YOU
MIGHT SEE EACH OTHER
SUFFER, AND DIE!

MY QUEEN,
I HAVE BEEN
THE POWER OF THE
SPIRITS. SO HAS
KHAEMWASU.

WHAT MIGHT
THE SPIRITS DO
IF THESE NITCHES
WERE SO TRAITED?
WOULDN'T IT BE
BETTER TO LET
THEM GO?



"BUT THE KING'S
WORDS MEANT
NOTHING. OUR
LIVES WERE
BEING TAKEN
FROM US.



"WHAT COULD
WE DO?

"FINALLY, MEKARE
SEIZED THE MOMENT.
SHE DID THE THING
WHICH I DID NOT
DARE TO DO.



"SHE CALLED
THE SPIRITS.

"SHE SCREAMED
FOR THEM TO
COME TO HER
AND DO HER
BIDDING."





YOU MUST
REVOKE THE
SENTENCE
OF EXECUTION!
PLEASE!

THE SPIRITS
WILL DESTROY US
IF YOU DON'T!